

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the **GROUND AND ENVIRONMENT** Committee held on 23 April 2019 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Cllrs Jane Baker, Kate Bailey, Leslie Campbell, Georgia Cheshire, Frances Gaudencio, Peter Gibbons (Chair) and Ian Weir.

In attendance: Ian Cumberworth – Parish Clerk  
Tracy Forte – Deputy Clerk  
Michelle Binks (re: May Day event and Proms in the Park)  
1 members of the public.

**GE18/138 APOLOGIES.** Apologies were received from Cllrs Bill Hatton and Sue Hatton, and co-optees, Sally Booker, Tony Copeland and Penny Wadsworth. Absent without apology, Cllr Emma Wood.

**GE18/139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr Ian Weir declared a personal interest in item 11, Temporary Road Closure Application for Semley Road.

**GE18/140 MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 25 March 2019.

**GE18/141 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** There was no public participation.

**GE18/142 OFFICER'S REPORT.** Members noted the Officer's Report. Members were fully supportive of the request to set up a family trail in Adastra Park over the Summer Holidays and looked forward to hearing about the project in more detail once funding has been secured.

**GE18/143 PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS.** There was nothing to report.

**GE18/144 BURIAL GROUND MAINTENANCE.**

GE18/144.1 Members were invited to consider recommending approval to the regular mowing of the southern Cremated Remains Area at a cost of £38.50 per cut.

It was **AGREED** to approve fortnightly mowing of the grass on the Southern Cremation Area throughout the growing season, using a roller mower which collect clippings, at a cost of £38.50.

GE18/144.2 Members were also invited to approve the recommendation to Full Council to increase the Burial Ground Maintenance Contract Budget from £2,800 to £3,800 with the balance of funding being met from General Reserves, the increase would be to cover the additional expected costs of maintaining the Burial Ground over 2019/20 due to increases in contractor charges and the additional mowing required.

GE18/144.3 It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to Full Council to increase the Burial Ground Maintenance Contract Budget from £2,800 to £3,800 with the balance of funding being met from General Reserves.

**GE18/145 ADASTRA PARK RAIN GARDEN.** Members views were sought regarding the proposal from HKD for the installation of an Information Board in the vicinity of the rain garden in Adastra Park, to inform the public of the garden's purpose and benefits. Members were provided with a draft A4 copy of the proposed sign to consider. HKD have proposed that the final sign will be A1 size mounted on an oak frame.

If Members were minded to approve this proposal they were also requested to consider potential locations where it may be situated in the vicinity of the garden.

Members discussed the proposal, concerns were expressed over the size of the sign and the display format – it was unclear whether the sign would be upright or lectern style. Some concern was also expressed over the amount of text proposed. It was agreed that an Information Board was required to explain the purpose of the rain garden, however the sizing and wording of this required further clarification.

It was therefore AGREED in principle that the Committee supported the installation of an Information Board, however Members would like to see an A1 'mock up' of the proposed sign, with clarification on the design and presentation before making any further decisions.

**GE18/146 MAY DAY EVENT.** The purpose of this agenda item was to update Members on the arrangements for the forthcoming May Day event. The event timetable had been provided for information with the agenda, and Michelle Binks, the event organiser, was in attendance to answer any queries Members may have had. It was noted that a Fun Run was planned for the North Field. Whilst the Committee was in support of the run, some discussion took place over the numbers of runners expected. Although this had not been confirmed, it was considered that it was unlikely this would be more than 50.

Members noted the event plan and were happy with the arrangements in place.

**GE18/147 PROMS IN THE PARK.** Members were invited to re-consider a request to hold Proms in the Park (DownsFest) in Adastra Park on 7 September 2019. Members were asked to note that the agenda had incorrectly stated 6<sup>th</sup> September instead of the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Earlier last year (May 2018) Members were requested to consider a request to host a Proms in the Park event in September 2019. This request was approved in principle, subject to detailed information being provided within a given timeframe. This additional information was not provided as the Council were subsequently informed that the park was

no longer required as a venue to host this event as it was to be held at an alternative venue in the village. Therefore all affected clubs were informed that the park was available for use over the stated period in September.

The Council has recently been approached in the last few weeks by the event organiser, Michelle Binks, with information that the alternative venue has now fallen through. Therefore HPC have been asked whether the event could be reinstated within the North Field of Adastra Park for the period 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

It was reported by the Clerk that this request has been communicated to the affected sports clubs, who had instigated arrangements to reinstate their clubs fixtures/events on being informed that the venue was not required. All clubs contacted have kindly agreed to defer/cancel arrangements to facilitate this event.

It is anticipated that the event will be subject to a licence issued by Mid Sussex District Council. As part of this process its likely MSDC will require the event to be subject to a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting to review and assess the event management plan dependent on the anticipated numbers attending the event to ensure the event is appropriately managed.

Members enquired as to whether immediate neighbours would be informed of the event. It was confirmed that this would happen automatically as part of the licensing application process.

Members discussed the request and some concern was raised over how Public Right of Way 10K would be affected by the event. This footpath runs diagonally from the NW corner to the twitten into Fir Tree Way. The organiser was not aware that of this PROW, however would make enquiries to WSCC with regard to a temporary closure/diversion. Members were happy with this course of action.

Members discussed applying a charge to the event. It was noted that this is standard practice by MSDC for events on MSDC land, a £195 charge would be applied by MSDC for a community event of this nature. It was also noted that the previous Proms in the Park held in Adastra Park in 2009 paid a hire fee for the use of the park. Members were informed that the Council would lose some sports club revenue due to the closure of the North Field over the weekend.

After some discussion although it was recognised that the event was a charity fundraiser, it was noted that this would be ticketed and access to the park would therefore be restricted. Following consideration it was proposed, and agreed, that on this occasion a charge of £150 should be applied.

GE18/147.1 Members AGREED to approve the use of the North Field in Adastra Park for DownsFest (Proms in the Park) on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019, including the closure of the North Field from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September. This approval is subject to a charge of £150 and the formal approval from WSCC of a temporary closure to PROW 10K. Usual hire terms and conditions would also apply.

**GE 18/148 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE.** Members were invited to consider two applications from Temporary Road Closures as follows:

**Semley Road,** Hassocks; Queen’s Birthday Street Party  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Farnham Avenue,** Hassocks; Big Lunch Street Party  
Sunday 2nd June 2019

Members were in full support of both applications.

**GE 18/149 TRAFFIC AND PARKING.** Cllr Ian Weir informed the Committee that the Phase 2 proposals of the Hassocks Traffic and Parking Scheme are currently being prepared by WSCC for reporting to the CLC. It is understood that WSCC have addressed many of the objections directly.

**GE 18/150 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW).** Cllr Leslie Campbell reported that PROW 10C was re-opened very promptly after the accidental closure by the developers working on the Golf Club. However there is a fallen tree stump which restricts the entrance to footpath, therefore Cllr Campbell requested that the WSCC PROW Access Ranger was made aware of this.

Cllr Georgia Cheshire informed the Committee that she has been making a note of damaged PROW signs and footpath issues to be reported to WSCC.

**GE18/151 URGENT MATTERS** at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. Cllr Georgia Cheshire informed Members that some concern had been raised on social media regarding an apparent blockage of the stream along 21K. Cllr Peter Gibbons offered to check the site and report his findings to the Parish Office.

*Cllr Frances Gaudencio left the meeting.*

**GE18/152 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The date of the next meeting is Thursday 30 May 2019.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed .....Chairman Date.....